Eleven point guiding principles between India and China

1154. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
DR. KARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during Chinese Prime Minister's visit to India, both countries have taken a major step forward in agreeing a eleven point 'political parameters and guiding principles' to resolve their long standing boundary dispute between the two countries;

(b) if so, whether this guiding principles will provide the basis for proactively addressing the issue as a 'strategic objectives';

(c) if so, to what extent this decision has helped in reaching the panel agreement on border between India and China; and

(d) by what time, a final agreement in this regard is likely to be reached?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Based on the parameters and principles laid down in the "Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question", the Special Representatives of the two countries have been tasked to continue their consultations with the objective of arriving at an agreed framework for a boundary settlement, which will provide the basis for the delineation and demarcation of the India-China boundary to be subsequently undertaken by civil and military officials and surveyors of the two sides.

(d) Both sides have expressed the conviction that an early settlement of the boundary question will advance the basic interests of the two countries and should, therefore, be pursued as a strategic objective.

Time limit for issuance of passports

1155. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN:
MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the minimum and maximum time limit for issuing passports;

(b) on an average how much minimum and maximum time was taken in issuing passports by the passport offices in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar during the year 2004; and

(c) what steps are being taken to further streamline the issuing of passports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The minimum time limit for issue of passport is one day under Tatkaal Scheme. The maximum time limit for issuance of passports depends upon the time taken for clear Police Verification Report subject to completion of all formalities and documentation.

(b) In 2004, for Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, Tatkaal passports were issued within 3 days. Ordinary fresh passports were issued within 50 to 55 days in Uttar Pradesh on an average, and in case of Bihar, the average time taken was 35 days. Maximum time taken was subject to Police verification and completion of all formalities.

(c) A system of process re-engineering has been started in all passport offices, resulting in quicker processing of the application forms. The time slabs for issuing passports under Tatkaal Scheme have been revised to 1 to 10 days and 11 to 20 days. Ministry has also decided to issue full validity passport for 10 years under Tatkaal scheme and in cases of duplicate passports, or passport booklets due to change in appearance, name, date of birth, place of birth, signatures or when pages are exhausted, irrespective of the validity of existing passports. The Ministry of Home Affairs has also been requested to direct State Police authorities to complete Police Verification procedures within a period of two weeks.

Visit of Sri Lankan President to India

1156. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether President of Sri Lanka visited India in June last;

(b) if so, the nature of talks held between the two Governments during her visit;

(c) whether any agreements/treaties were signed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir. The President of Sri Lanka